

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Seed cases on stem. Photographer Stanley Barker, Burke Rd Billabong, Melbourne, Vic



Leafy stems. Photographer Stanley Barker, Burke Rd Billabong, Melbourne, Vic



Plant base. Photographer Stanley Barker, Burke Rd Billabong, Melbourne, Vic



Line drawing of seed case. MMBir, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Peppergrass, Native peppergrass

Family

Brassicaceae

Where found

Variety of **habitats**. Widespread, mostly north and east and west from near Captains Flat south east of the ACT.

Notes

Annual to **perennial** herb to 0.6 m tall, hairless. Leaves basal and **alternating** up the stems, variable, from narrow-**linear**, 1-2 cm long, 1-2 mm wide, to broadly lance **head** shaped, to 9 cm long, about 15 mm wide, hairless, margins hairless to hairy with needle like or conical hairs, tips pointed. Basal leaves lobed or toothed. Stem leaves alternating up the stems, 1-9 cm long, 1-15 mm wide, toothed or **entire**. Flowers tiny (less than 3 mm in diameter), with 4 **petals** to 0.8 mm long or petals absent, and 4 **sepals** to about 0.8 mm long. Flowers in an unbranched cluster at the top of the stem, which elongates in seed. Flowers mostly spring–autumn. Seed cases elliptical to oval, 3-5 mm long, 2-2.5 mm wide, with narrow **wings** in the upper half forming a shallow open notch. (needs a hand lens or a macro app on your phone/tablet to see.) Stalks of seed cases **spreading**, 3–8 mm long, usually hairless.

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Vulnerable Australia. Data deficient Vic.

PlantNET description with line drawing and photo of dried plants: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Lepidium~pseudohyssopifolium> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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